an accident is being progressively provided at various stations.

—Track circuiting from Fouling Mark to Fouling Mark within station limits has already been completed on A&B trunk routes of Railways and is expected to be completed on C route by 31.3.1999.

—Track circuiting of other sections within station limits is also being provided on a programmed basis.

—In addition along with Railway Electrification, Colour Light Signalling is being progressively provided in place of semaphore signalling.

—Modern signalling system such as Panel Interlocking, Route Relay Interlocking, Solid State Interlocking and Last Vehicle Check by Axle Counter etc. are being Progressively introduced through judicious use of available resources.

—Auxiliary Warning System (AWS) which prevents the human error by driver, resulting in accident has been installed in Mumbai suburban section. Trial of a radio based system is proposed to be taken up on Delhi-Mathura section of Central Railway.

Problems of Rail Reservations

593. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in the absence of an out agency of Indian Railways, both Indian and Nepal-ese Nationals are facing problems in getting reservations at Kathraandu, Nepal; and

(b) if so, whether Government would open an out agency in Nepal, in order to help them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The proposal regarding opening of an Out agency in Nepal (Beerganj and Kathmandu) was considered but not found feasible to agree.

Bookstalls on Eastern, South Eastern Railways

594. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 769 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th December, 1998 and State:

(a) what are the details of bookstalls, with names of stations, functioning on Eastern and South Eastern Railways; and

(b) the details of bookstall contracts renewed for a period of one year basis, instead of five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The details are given in the Annexure. *[See* Appendix 186, Annexure No. 11]

(b) Previously on Eastern Railway bookstall contracts were renewed for one year which has since been stopped with effect from October 1998 and now such contracts are renewed for every five years.

Late Running of Narsapur Express

595. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Narsapur Express is late in its journey from Secunderabad to Narsapur in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for regular late running of Narsapur Express;

(c) what steps are proposed to carefully monitor punctuality or delays of Narsapur Express; and

(d) the number of days the Narsapur Express was late in the month of May, 1998 on its journey from Secunderabad to Narsapur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) The punctuality of Narsapur Express is by and large satisfactory. However, due to heavy alarm-chain pulling and other miscreant activities and operational problems like equipment failures, this train ran late on six days in the month of May 1998. Factors causing delays have been analysed and remedial action has been taken including disciplinary action against staff* wherever found responsible.

रेल-लाइनों का विद्युतिकरण

596. **श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया** :

श्री कपिल सिब्बल :

क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि रेल लाइनों का विद्युतिकरण होने रेल परिवहन मितव्ययी बनाया जा सकता है,

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबधं में सरकार ने कितनी बचत होने का अनुमान लगाया है,

(ग) जिन्हें प्रथम दृष्टि में विद्युतिकरण के लिए उचित पाया गया है, और

(घ) यदि हां, तो दिसंम्बर, 1998 तक विद्युतिकरण रेल लाइनों की लम्बाई के साथ-साथ और कुल कितने रेल मार्गों का विद्युतिकरण किए जाने की संभावना है ?

रेल मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री, संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक) : (क) और (ख) रेल लाइन का विद्युतिकरण होने से मितव्ययित आयी है । मुख्य रूप से उन खंडों में जहां यातायात घनत्व अधिक है और विद्युत कर्षक के लिए लागू बिजली की दरें उचित हैं । बचत की मात्रा खंड दर खंड अलग हैं जो उपर्युक्त सहित विभिन्न कारकों पर निर्भर करता है ।

(ग) जी हां, कुछ खंडों पर सर्वेक्षण किया गया है ।जिन्हें प्रथम दृष्टि में विद्युतिकरण के लिए उचित पाया गया है ।

(घ) दिसंबर, 1998 तक, 14879 मार्ग किलोमीटर को विद्युतिकरण किया गया है । 14 रेल मार्गों पर 3080 मार्ग किलोमीटर का कार्य प्रगति पर है ।

New Railway projects in NE

597. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS .be pleased to state:

(a) the location wise details of new railway projects approved by Government in the North Eastern Region during the current financial year;

(b) the estimated cost of the said projects, project wise/State wise; and

(c) if not, the necessary steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The following projects have been taken up in the North East Region during the current financial year:—

(i) Maligaon-Alipurduar: Replacement of analog Microwave equipment by the digital microwave Equipment.	Rs. 1918.64 lacs